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Minutes, May, 2005

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for May 2, 2005

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Scott Smith, Ron Sender, Christopher Tonkin, and Ted Packard. Others present were Bobby Mac, Karl Thidemann, Joy Ahern, and Parris Kellerman.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30.

Introductions and sharing local conversations about bicycling. Karl Thidemann introduced himself, and Jack told us about his training by LAB to be a certified bicycling instructor.

*The minutes from the last meeting were accepted with four changes.

Discussion of Mass. Ave./Arlington Center potential redesign, related to bicycling accommodation and bikeway-connection improvements. Scott said that he is communicating to VHB, the consultants working on the redesign, that there are two groups of bicyclists moving through the center—experienced and inexperienced. Jack pointed out there are also two other non-motorized groups, walkers and skaters. Jack asked that we consider the bicycles moving along the road as well as the bikes on the path crossing the Pleasant St. intersection in our deliberations.

Bobby bemoaned the fact that there is an increasing trend to ignore the no-turn on red signs in the Center. Scott told us that it is possible that we will be able to alter the footprint of the roadway and alter the configuration of the traffic lights. Bobby asked if we could alter the timing of the lights on weekends. Scott thought that would cause confusion. We decided to explore the usefulness of utilizing the seasonality of bike and auto traffic to time signals and design the road.

Christopher suggested that the ABAC redesign subcommittee meet after the Bike Arlington Tour. We all agreed to meet.

Planning the Bike-Arlington Tour, scheduled for Sunday, May 22. We decided to recycle the route that we used a few years ago. We discussed making a slight change on Mystic St. near Cooke's Hollow and moved the final stop to the Carberry's parking lot instead of Spy Pond Park which is under construction. We unanimously decided that Bobby Mac should give the safety talk before the ride. Invitation to participate in the Renaissance Health's Wellness Fair, Saturday, May 21, 11-3 at Arlington Town Hall. Ted will attend the Fair and drop off fliers announcing the Bike-Arlington Tour.

Update on bicycling to school. Jack is going to testify at the State House on May 3. The proposed legislation would fund the Safe Routes to School program.

Jack told us that Lauren Hefferon has been very active in organizing around this issue. Jack also told us that fourth graders are the ideal age for bicycle education but the middle school age kids are old enough to be encouraged to ride to school. We also discussed the Cycle Kids program.

Review/update action items from prior meetings, plus upcoming events.

ACTION ITEM: Ron's item from the last meeting was continued (he will contact the High School to find out about the volunteer program).

Upcoming Events: Spy Pond Weekend and the 8th Annual Bike-Arlington Tour.

Open forum. Karl from Somerville wants to run a bike sale at the Wald Memorial to raise money for MassBike and maintenance of the memorial. We gave him advice on presenting the idea to the Selectmen.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19.

*An asterisk denotes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephen Miller.